



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/717,298	11/22/2000	Michelle Q. Wang Baldonado	1508-3180	8440

7590 03/15/2004

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square
P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, NY 14603

EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELM

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/717,298

Applicant(s)

BALDONADO, MICHELLE Q.
WANG

Examiner

Salad E Abdullahi

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-21 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

Objection

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following minor informalities:
Applicant is advised to provide the serial numbers and/or patents related with the instant application. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 5, 11 and 17 are objected to because of the following minor informalities:
the word "recency" in line 4 should be corrected as relevancy. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Horibe U.S. Patent No. 6,101, 532 (hereinafter) in view of Hachamovitch U.S. Patent
No. 6,377,965 (hereinafter Hachamovitch).
As per claim 1, Horibe discloses an electronic message management system (10)
comprising:

- a related message determination device (120) that determines one or more related electronic messages to a new electronic message (extracting related messages to a new or reply message) (see figs. 3a-4, col. 2, lines 40-54 and col. 4, lines 54-63 and col. 6, lines 20-49);
- a message control device (220) that assembles (merging) the one or more related electronic messages (see col. 3, lines 15-17, col. 5, lines 12-16 and col. 8, lines); and
- a message display device (140) that simultaneously displays a portion (title) of the one or more related electronic messages (see fig. 4 and col. 2, lines 40-54 and col. 7, lines 35-58, where when reply bottom is selected message one and related message are displayed).

Horibe is silent regarding: non-disruptively displaying the one or more related message.

Hachamovitch, discloses an electronic content/mail processing system such as e-mail including a graphical user interface for displaying data on the display device in a non-disruptively manner. Furthermore, Hachamovitch, teaches a user may start entering a data on a body portion of an email message and auto complete-utility may then non-disruptively display the associated data with the partially entered data (see fig. 2, col. 10, lines 17-37). In addition, although, Horibe teaches portions of related message are simultaneously displayed, Hachamovitch's mechanism of non-disruptively displaying related data would be beneficial to Horibe's system as this makes it easy for the user to quickly and efficiently display related messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the

Hachamovitch's non-disruptive data display mechanism into Horibe's system, thus providing a significant advantage to automatically predict and display related messages more quickly and efficiently.

As per claim 2, Horibe discloses the system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic message composition device (140) that allows a user to at least one of create or update the new electronic message (see col. 4, lines 30-42).

As per claim 3, Horibe disclose the system of claim 2, wherein the related message determination device (120) automatically determines the one or more related electronic messages after commencement of the creating or updating of the new electronic message (see col. 4, lines 54-63);

As per claim 4, Horibe discloses the system of claim 1, wherein upon selection of a portion of one of the one or more related messages, the related message is displayed (see fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 35-57).

As per claim 5, Horibe discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the related message determination is based on at least one of: a statistical analysis; a comparison of the new electronic message to at least one of the one or more related electronic messages; a keyword search (see col. 5, lines 7-11); an address field search; a recipient search; a

sender search; a subject field search; a date search; and a relevancy search (see figs. 3a-4, col. 4, lines 54-63 and col. 6, lines 20-49).

As per claim 6, Horibe discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the one or more related electronic messages are at least one of: displayed in a new user interface; assembled (merged) into a digest; and stored (see col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 5).

As per claim 7, Horibe discloses an electronic message management method comprising:

- determining one or more related electronic messages to a new electronic message (see figs. 3A-3d and col. 7, lines 35-57);
- assembling (merging) the one or more related electronic messages (see col. 5, lines 12-16 and col. 8, lines); and
- displaying a portion of the one or more related electronic messages (see fig. 4 and col. 2, lines 40-54 and col. 7, lines 35-58, where when reply bottom is selected related messages are displayed).

Horibe is silent regarding: non-disruptively displaying the one or more related message.

Hachamovitch, discloses an electronic content processing system such as e-mail including a graphical user interface for displaying data on the display device in a non-disruptively manner. Furthermore, Hachamovitch, teaches a user may start entering a data on a body portion of an email message and auto complete-utility may then non-disruptively display the associated data with the partially entered data (see fig. 2, col.

Art Unit: 2157

10, lines 17-37). In addition, although, Horibe teaches portions of related message are simultaneously displayed, Hachamovitch's mechanism of non-disruptively displaying related data would be beneficial to Horibe's system as this makes it easy for the user to quickly and efficiently display related messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the Hachamovitch's non-disruptive data display mechanism into Horibe's system, thus providing a significant advantage to automatically predict and display related messages more quickly and efficiently.

As per claim 8, Horibe discloses the method of claim 7, further comprising creating or updating the new electronic message (see col. 4, lines 30-42).

As per claim 9, Horibe discloses the method of claim 8, wherein determining the one or more related electronic messages automatically occurs after commencement of creating or updating of the new electronic message (see figs. 3a-4, col. 4, lines 54-63 and col. 6, lines 20-49).

As per claim 10, Horibe discloses the method of claim 7, wherein upon selection of a portion of one of the one or more related messages, the related message is displayed (see fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 35-57).

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 11, Horibe discloses the method of claim 7, wherein the related message determination is based on at least one of: a statistical analysis; a comparison of the new message to at least one of the one or more related electronic messages; a keyword search (see col. 5, 7-11); an address field search; a recipient search; a sender search; a subject field search; a date search; and a relevancy search (see figs. 3a-4, col. 4, lines 54-63 and col. 6, lines 20-49).

As per claim 12, Horibe discloses the method of claim 7, wherein the one or more related electronic messages are at least one of: displayed in a new user interface; assembled into a digest; and stored (see col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 5).

As per claim 13, Horibe discloses an information storage media (see col. 11, lines 1-5) comprising information that manages electronic messages comprising:

- information that determines one or more related electronic messages to a new electronic message (see figs. 3A-3d and col. 7, lines 35-57);
- information that assembles the one or more related electronic messages (see col. 5, lines 12-16 and col. 8, lines); and
- information that displays a portion of the one or more related electronic messages (see fig. 4 and col. 2, lines 40-54 and col. 7, lines 35-58, where when reply is selected related message tree is displayed).

Horibe is silent regarding: non-disruptively displaying the one or more related message.

Art Unit: 2157

Hachamovitch, discloses an electronic content/message processing system such as e-mail including a graphical user interface for displaying data on the display device in a non-disruptively manner. Furthermore, Hachamovitch, teaches a user may start entering a data on a body portion of an email message and auto complete-utility may then non-disruptively display the associated data with the partially entered data (see fig. 2, col. 10, lines 17-37). In addition, although, Horibe teaches portions of related message are simultaneously displayed, Hachamovitch mechanism of non-disruptively displaying related data would be beneficial to Horibe's system as this makes it easy for the user to quickly and efficiently see related messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the Hachamovitch's non-disruptive related data display mechanism into Horibe's system, thus providing a significant advantage to automatically predict and display related messages more quickly and efficiently.

As per claim 14, Horibe discloses the information storage media of claim 13, further comprising information that creates or updates the new electronic message (see col. 4, lines 30-42).

As per claim 15, Horibe discloses the information storage media of claim 14, wherein determining the one or more related electronic messages automatically occurs after commencement of the creating or updating of the new electronic message (see figs. 3a-4, col. 4, lines 54-63 and col. 6, lines 20-49)

As per claim 16, Horibe disclose the information storage media of claim 13, wherein upon selection of a portion of one of the one or more related messages, the related message is displayed (see fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 35-57).

As per claim 17, Horibe disclose the information storage media of claim 13, wherein the related message determination is based on at least one of: a statistical analysis; a comparison of the new electronic message and at least one of the one or more related electronic messages; a keyword search (see col. 5, lines 7-11); an address field search; a recipient search; a sender search; a subject field search; a date search; and a relevancy search (see figs. 3a-4, col. 4, lines 54-63 and col. 6, lines 20-49).

As per claim 18, Horibe disclose the information storage media of claim 13, wherein the one or more related electronic messages are at least one of: displayed in a new user interface; assembled into a digest; and stored (see col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 5).

As per claim 19, Horibe disclose an electronic message management system (10) comprising:

- a data system (100) for identifying data in electronic messages, the data system adapted to identify related electronic messages(see figs. 3A-3d and col. 7, lines 35-57);
- a message control system associated with the data system, the message control

system adapted to assemble the related electronic messages(see col. 5, lines 12-16 and col. 8, lines); and

- an output device (display unit 140) adapted to communicate the related electronic messages (see col. 4, line 30-42, fig. 9, and col. 9, lines 16-39).

Horibe is silent regarding: non-disruptively displaying the one or more related message. Hachamovitch, discloses an electronic content/message processing system such as e-mail including a graphical user interface for displaying data on the display device in a non-disruptively manner. Furthermore, Hachamovitch, teaches a user may start entering a data on a body portion of an email message and auto complete-utility may then non-disruptively display the associated data with the partially entered data (see fig. 2, col. 10, lines 17-37). In addition, although, Horibe teaches portions of related message are simultaneously displayed, Hachamovitch mechanism of non-disruptively displaying data would be beneficial to Horibe's system as this makes it easy for the user to quickly and efficiently see related messages. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the Hachamovitch's non-disruptive data display mechanism into Horibe's system, thus providing a significant advantage to automatically predict and display related messages more quickly and efficiently.

As per claim 20, Horibe disclose the electronic message management system of claim 19 wherein the data system further includes a rule and the data system identifies related

electronic messages according to the rule (same subject matter) (see col. 5, lines 12-17).

As per claim 21, Horibe disclose the electronic message management system of claim 19 wherein the output device communicates in at least one of a human readable and computer readable format (see col. 4, line 30-42, fig. 9, and col. 9, lines 16-39).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a) Knight et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,571,234. Provides an online messaging board managing system for displaying related messages.
- b) Kakuta et al U.S. Patent No. 6,630,944. Provides a system for displaying threads of messages in a thread window.
- c) Nomura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,658,409. discloses a messaging system for displaying a related messages in single operation

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 703-308-8441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature

Application/Control Number: 09/717,298

Page 12

Art Unit: 2157

or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306).


Abdullahi salad

Examiner Art unit 2157

03/7/2004